

their birthright from them, you destroyed their language, you destroyed their history, you dragged them here in chains, you raped their women, instead of a black man I'm a brown man.

PRESIDENT: You have one minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I don't become brown by infusions of black blood. I become brown through infusions of white blood. Nobody in my family ever married a white person. If I seek my revenge will Senator Rasmussen justify me when an entire race faced genocide. He'll justify the state killing a citizen who killed another. Does it apply to racial genocide also? I tell you that the issues are very grave in this matter. You should think. Contrary to what Senator DeCamp says, as strongly as I feel on the issue I know that it's not simply saying you're for or against. I can say it, but I know what my principles are, and I know what I am, and I know who I am. Others are trying to find their way. I'm trying to help you do that.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm going to make an accusation and an allegation and some people in here are going to convict themselves with their own mouths in the next ten minutes. The accusation, the constitutional amendment you're talking about, and Senator Stoney and those that are concerned about the length of time, does precisely the opposite of what you are alleging it does, the allegation, that's intended. The allegation was made by others on the floor, lawyers that were turning over into the Constitution and to the people this matter so we can make sure these people are in prison for 30 years. Right? You heard it. It would indeed be tempting, Senator Chambers, to go and attack individuals in here rather than deal with the issues. You and I know that I admire you on your issue on this matter, for your courage. I don't admire you for the way you attack me on it, but I'm not going to resort to the same techniques. Okay. What does the constitutional amendment, Senator Luedtke, that's being proposed do? It says in the case of murder we're taking it basically, not basically. We are taking it out of the hands of the Board of Pardon and turning it over to the Legislature. Thirty years? Thirty years my fingers! That means each new election, each new election this year, next year we come in with a bill. We now mandate the Board of Pardons under the new system that any individual who has served eight years in prison and has had a good record, whatever standards you want. You're putting it entirely in the hands of the Legislature. It's no longer in the courts, it's out of the courts. It's in the hands of the Legislature. We become the new court every year with the new elections. Don't you think, when you've pulled it out of the Constitution and put it right in the hands of the Legislature, don't you think you're going to be faced every year with it? I suggested earlier you are destroying the judicial fabric, the judicial system with these roundabout games. Senator Chambers is opposed to the death penalty. He holds that conviction most sincerely. He fights for it most sincerely. I admire him for that. I stated yesterday, and I state today, studies show the safest people in prisons are murderers. That's right! Because of this fact does not mean that I don't believe that a particular murderer who has been sentenced to death should be allowed to live. That is part of the system, part of the de-